THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Indian Airlines Boeing-737 aircraft, which crashed on 26.4.1993, is to be declared a total loss The aircraft's book value was Rs. 6.45 Crores and the written down value Rs. 0.80 Crores.

(b) The aircraft was insured for USD 15 Million and this amount is payable by the Insurance Company.

(c) Compensation to the next of kin of the deceased will be paid ordinarily at the rate of Rs. 5.00 lakhs for adults, and Rs. 2.50 lakhs, for children below 12 years.

(d) It has been decided that four Boeing 737 aircraft which were more than 20 years old will not be flown by Indian Airlines for commercial purposes.

Foreign citizen travelling in Indian Airlines flight which crashed at Aurangabad on 26th April, 1993

1572. SHRI MOHINDRA SINGH KALYAN:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign citizens who are travelling in the Indian Airlines which crashed on 26th April, 1993 and how many of them died; and

(b) whether this will not affect the prospects of tourism in India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Six of the twelve foreign nationals who were travelling in the Indian Airlines flight which crashed on 26.4.1993 died.

(b) An isolated airline accident is not expected to have any adverse effect on tourist arrivals to India.

Overhauling of Security arangements at Airports

1573. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hijacking of Indian Airlines Planes in March and April, 1993 have made the Government think of overhauling the mode of security clearance of an Airports; and

(b) in what manner Ministries of Civil Aviation and Home co-ordinate to evolve a good security system?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Following the hijacking incident on 24.4.93, Government have instituted a high level enquiry by Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat to look into the security lapse and recommend remedial measures.

(b) Bureau of Civil Aviation Security already maintains close coordination with security agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Governments and issues instructions/alerts to tighten security depending upon the threat assessment.

Loss to Tourism Industry due to Riots and Agitation

1574. SHRI P. UPENDRA:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism industry has been hard hit by the recent riots and the agitation by Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered by the Government from December 6, 1992 to till date;

(c) whether there was a decline in foreign tourists inflow during the last three months; and

(d) what steps the Government is taking to bring back the tourism industry on trials?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD). (a) and (b) There has been a decline of about 10.9 per cent in tourist arrivals during the period from January to April 1993 as compared to the same period of the previous year due to various events including the Ayodhya incident and the agitation in Indian Airlines. It is not possible to quantify the loss as it is primarily the private sector which receives the tourist expenditure.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to attract more tourists to the country include launching of reassurance campaigns in the overseas markets, inviting travel writers and media persons to visit India to emphasise the safety of tourists in the country and improving tourist facilities and attractions in coordination with the State Governments and the private sector.

C.B.I. probe into A-320 deal

1575. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 388 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 1993 and state:

(a) what are the facts of the case regarding the Airbus A-320 deal as per the FIR registered by the C. B. I. on the 29th March, 1990;

(b) what are the names of persons and parties involved in the case as per the CBI Report;

(c) what is the amount of kick-backs etc. involved in the deal;

(d) what is the basis on which the case was registered by CBI for investigation; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to expedite the case which has been pending with CBI for investigation for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) On the basis of source information and examination of official records, the Central Bureau of Investigation had registered a case against the following persons/parties for alleged corruption in the matter of purchase of Airbus A-300 aircraft by Indian Airlines.

1. Shri S. S. Sidhu, formerly Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

2. Capt. K. Chadha, formerly Managing Director, Indian Airlines.

3. Shri R. Prasad, formerly Managing Director, Indian Airlines.

4. Capt. B. K. Bhasin, then Dy. Managing Director, Indian Airlines.

5. Concerned Directors/Partners/Employees including agents/representatives of M/s Airbus Industries, France.

6. Concerned Directors/Partners/Employees including agents/representatives of International Aero Engines, USA having registered office in Switzerland.

7. Certain public servants of the Government of India.

8. Certain persons who acted agents/middlemen and certain persons other than middlemen and public servants.